

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) In the pre-monsoon season the country normally receives an average rainfall of 26 mm in March and 36 mm in April. Hence rains during this period are not unseasonal. According to the reports received from the State Governments, the rains and hailstorms in some places during March-April, 1997 damaged a cropped area of about 70,000 ha. in Andhra Pradesh and 4600 ha. in Uttar Pradesh. Some damage to cropped area has occurred in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan also, the exact extent of which has not been reported.

(c) and (d) While it is not the practice to provide compensation to those affected by natural calamities, the State Governments provide necessary assistance to the affected farmers using the annual allocation of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). The annual allocation of the CRF is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	State	Calamity Relief Fund Allocation for 1997-98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	131.25
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.43
3.	Assam	52.77
4.	Bihar	54.83
5.	Goa	1.13
6.	Gujarat	147.31
7.	Haryana	26.44
8.	Himachal Pradesh	28.44
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	20.79
10.	Karnataka	44.16
11.	Kerala	58.47
12.	Madhya Pradesh	53.89
13.	Maharashtra	71.97
14.	Manipur	2.61
15.	Meghalaya	2.95
16.	Mizoram	1.33
17.	Nagaland	1.80
18.	Orissa	51.72
19.	Punjab	57.15
20.	Rajasthan	188.93
21.	Sikkim	4.97
22.	Tamil Nadu	62.63
23.	Tripura	4.75
24.	Uttar Pradesh	132.03
25.	West Bengal	54.16
Total		1263.71

[English]

Attack of Gall Pest on Paddy

4796. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central team from ICAR has visited Kerala particularly in Kuttanad region to study the effect of Gall Pest attack on paddy; and

(b) if so, the findings of the study team?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An estimated 8,000 hectare of rice was affected by the gall midge in Kuttanad area of Alleppey district of Kerala during December, 1996. Jyothi and Triveni, the two major rice varieties grown in the region are susceptible to the gall midge Biotype-5 responsible for this outbreak. Immediate remedial measures to check the pest were recommended. In addition, short and long term strategies for management of the pest have been suggested. These include growing resistant varieties and use of need based pesticides.

Chakma Refugees

4797. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Chakmas staying in the relief camp in Tripura;

(b) whether the Union Government have persuaded the matter of their deportation with Bangladesh;

(c) if so, the details of the agreement arrived at in this regard;

(d) whether the Union Government have made any arrangements for their safe return; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) There are 45474 Chakma refugees staying in six relief camps in Tripura.

(b) and (c) Government of India have been making continuous efforts to facilitate the dialogue between the representatives of the refugees and the Government of Bangladesh. The two sides have recently reached an agreement for repatriation and rehabilitation of the refugees in Bangladesh. Details of the agreement are given in the Statement attached.